

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A stereoguide comprising first and second guide elements spaced relative to each other through which instruments are passed along an axis of insertion towards a target; characterized by a first clamp having a clamping position on the axis between the guide elements and the target, or on the opposite side of the guide elements for clamping instruments passing through the guide elements and a second clamp having a clamping position on the axis of insertion and on the opposite side of the guide elements to the first clamp for clamping instruments passing through the guide elements.

Please cancel claim 2.

3. (Previously presented) A stereoguide according to claim 1, wherein the or each clamp is moveable away from its clamping position.

4. (Original) A stereoguide according to claim 3, wherein the or each clamp is swivelable away from its clamping position.

5. (Previously presented) A stereoguide according to claim 2, wherein the second clamp is disposed between the guide elements and the target.

6. (Original) A stereoguide according to claim 5, further comprising a post extending from the first guide element and carrying the first clamp, and a leg extending from the second guide element and carrying the second clamp.

7. (Previously presented) A method of positioning an instrument at a target using a stereoguide according to claim 1 comprising;

inserting a wire into a support tube;

inserting the wire and support tube together along an axis of insertion towards the target via the guide elements of the stereoguide;

removing the support tube from the wire, leaving the wire *in situ*;

inserting a guide tube around the wire towards the target;

securing the guide tube in position;

removing the wire; and

inserting the instrument to the target via the guide tube.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the insertion of the wire into the support tube results in the wire projecting from the end of the support tube.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the wire projects from the support tube towards the target by about 25mm.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein once the wire is inserted into the support tube they are fixed together by virtue of a finger tightenable screw carried by the support tube.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein after insertion of the wire to the target, the first clamp is clamped to the wire.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein removal of the support tube includes release of the finger tightenable screw.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein removal of the support tube includes moving the support tube along the wire until it is positioned between the first and second clamps, clamping the wire with the second clamp, releasing the first clamp, and withdrawing the support tube from the wire.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein insertion of the guide tube includes passing the guide tube over the wire until the tube is positioned between the first and second clamps, clamping the wire with the first clamp, releasing the second clamp, and moving the guide tube towards the target.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein, before removing the wire, both clamps are released.

16. (New) A method of positioning an instrument at a target using a stereoguide, the stereoguide including first and second guide elements spaced relative to each other through which instruments are passed along an axis of insertion towards a target; characterized by a first clamp having a clamping position on the axis between the guide elements and the target, or on the opposite side of the guide elements for clamping instruments passing through the guide elements and a second clamp having a clamping position on the axis of insertion and on the opposite side of the guide elements to the first clamp for clamping instruments passing through the guide elements, said method comprising;

inserting a wire into a support tube;

inserting the wire and support tube together along an axis of insertion towards the target via the guide elements of the stereoguide;

removing the support tube from the wire, leaving the wire *in situ*;

inserting a guide tube around the wire towards the target;

securing the guide tube in position;

removing the wire; and

inserting the instrument to the target via the guide tube and after insertion of the wire to the target, the first clamp is clamped to the wire.